



## **Australian Education Union - Federal Office**

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### **Federal Government threatens to deny TAFE funding**

TAFE teachers and students across Australia will take action on 1 June to protest against the Federal Government's attacks on TAFE.

Despite critical skills shortages in Australia, this week's Federal Budget contained no additional funding for TAFE to meet these training needs. At the same time, the Federal Government has introduced to Parliament a Bill called "Skilling Australia's Workforce". The Bill outlines the punitive measures that are threatened by the Government as part of this year's VET funding proposal.

The Federal Government provides around a third of the recurrent funding for TAFE. To get this funding, States and Territories will be required under this legislation to agree to a range of industrial relations changes, designed not to support education and training in Australia, but to attack TAFE teachers and their Union.

The legislation will force TAFE Colleges to offer Australian Workplace Agreements in TAFE colleges; to increase the funds allocated to private providers under user choice arrangements; and to open up public TAFE facilities for use by their competitors.

None of these requirements will improve vocational education and training for one Australian, or increase the career opportunities for our young people.

TAFE teachers and students will campaign to stop these attacks on their TAFE colleges and on the working conditions of TAFE teachers. The joint protest on 1 June in the National Day of Action, will be the first step in this campaign.

#### **For further information, please contact:**

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